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LB 480

model could be built on existing DHHS infrastructure, similar to the Every Woman Matters Program. The initiative could also identify a medical need and provide preventative interventions. Second was a health education model. This model would be the focus of the initiative. Many of the diseases that cause disability and premature death in women could be prevented by healthier behavior choices. Health education has proven effective when it is delivered from a variety of sources. This model provides the perfect opportunity for creating private-public partnerships. Resources from federal and state government, private corporations, local advocates, and clinical providers could work together to deliver targeted health education messages. The third model would focus on policy development. This perspective would focus on strategic planning regarding women's health. The initiative could recommend and monitor public health policies as it relates to women. It could work toward coordination of women's health projects and identify unnecessary duplication of services or gaps in services. It could serve as a clearinghouse for information regarding women's health data, strategies, and programs that address women's health. All of this information and work through the interim brings us to LB 480 today. This bill is a compilation of three models just mentioned. The bill pulls together the best aspects of each model to provide a complete and wholistic approach to women's health. In the first section of the bill you will see language that states the purpose and goal of the initiative concisely and succinctly. "The Women's Health Initiative of Nebraska shall strive to improve the health of women in Nebraska by fostering the development of a comprehensive system of coordinated services, policy development, advocacy and education." This section further delineates the agenda of the initiative. Section 2 of the bill creates an essential element to the success of this endeavor. The Women's Health Initiative Council brings together a broad spectrum of medical professionals, private corporations, nonprofit organizations, women consumers, and state government entities. This council forms the backbone, if you will, of the entire initiative. The council will provide direction to the initiative, drawing from personal experiences, knowledge of issues, and potential funding sources to make the initiative succeed. The last portion of the bill, and this is a very significant part, provides for the Women's Health Initiative of Nebraska to receive General Funds,